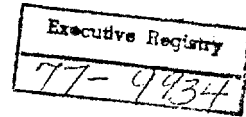




Herbert E. Hetu
Assistant for Public Affairs

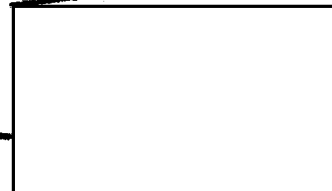
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505
(703) 351-7676



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Admiral - *[Signature]*
19 OCT 1977

We aren't the only
ones - maybe if we
all keep pinging away
something will give -
unlikely but in this
business you gotta keep
chipping away -



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hamilton Jordan Replies

While I have become accustomed to Evans and Novak columns being erroneous, my tolerance for their casual regard for the facts will not allow me to remain silent after reading the Oct. 15 column, which says:

"... [T]op presidential aide Hamilton Jordan let it be known that—with two exceptions—he does not think much of President Carter's Cabinet. Jordan's remarks came in a private White House session with top assistants of senators. Only two Cabinet members, he said, are worth much—Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus and Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland."

I can state categorically that I have never met at the White House in any private session with top assistants of senators.

About a month ago, I did attend a breakfast meeting for Senate staff members in the Senate Office Building. About 100 people were in attendance. It was not a private meeting, nor was it held at the White House. At that meeting, I made a few comments and answered questions, but I did not make any derogatory comments about the Cabinet generally or Cabinet members specifically.

In fact, the only thing in the column that is accurate is the high regard that I have for Secretary Bergland and Secretary Andrus. I have the same feeling for the other men and women of the Cabinet with whom I work.

HAMILTON JORDAN,
Assistant to the President
Washington

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